

## OVAE Seeks Education Research Analyst Candidates

OVAE is seeking candidates for the position of Education Research Analyst to serve on OVAE's Policy, Research, and Evaluation staff. This is a full-time, permanent, GS-13 position with a pay range of \$89,033 – \$115,742 per year. The position's duties include:

- Planning, developing and conducting educational research activities within a specific functional or specialized area of education.
- Conducting secondary analysis of public data sets to inform OVAE policy.
- Conducting research projects involving the analysis of policy-related issues.
- Consulting studies and literature to compile viewpoints and options to develop the analysis and to support conclusions drawn.

Click [here](#) for a complete description of the application process, requirements, duties, qualifications, evaluation procedures, selection process, and benefits.

**Deadline for applications is June 21, 2011.**

## President Obama Announces Resources in Support of Skills for America's Future Campaign

Last October, the White House launched the Skills for America's Future (SAF) campaign. The purpose of SAF is to connect community colleges with businesses to create pipelines from the classroom to the workplace. It is designed to help workers find better jobs and companies to find the highly educated and highly trained people that they need in order to prosper and remain competitive. On June 8, 2011, at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, Va., [President Obama announced](#) several new commitments by the private sector, colleges, and the National Association of Manufacturers, to help make these business/education partnerships a reality:

- A new resource on the Internet enabling workers to determine the jobs for which their skill sets make them eligible across the country;
- A new initiative for high school students to start their degrees at 3,500 participating schools; and
- New mentoring programs and scholarships for those considering careers in engineering.

The president stated, "Through these efforts, we're going to make it possible for 500,000 community college students—half a million community college students—to get industry-accepted credentials for manufacturing jobs that companies across America are looking to fill. Because the irony is even though a lot of folks are looking for work, there are a lot of companies that are actually also looking for skilled workers. There's a mismatch that we can close. And this partnership is a great way to do it."

## LINCS Online Discussion:

### *Teacher Certification and Credentialing in Adult Education To Be Held June 20–24, 2011*

[The Literacy Information and Communication System \(LINCS\)](#) will hold an electronic [discussion](#) on the topic of teacher certification and credentialing in adult education from June 20-24, 2011.

While many adult education teachers have been trained and certified in the K-12 system, they may have little or no training in teaching adults. Similarly, some adult educators have experience helping adults, but are not familiar with effective instructional strategies that promote learning. Many do not consider either of these choices to be adequate preparation for adult educators. To address this issue of teacher certification and credentialing, a facilitator-led guest panel of experts will explore prepared and additional questions, during an online discussion of [Teacher Certification and Credentialing in Adult Education](#). Literacy stakeholders are invited to join and participate in this professional development discussion.

Please access the [LINCS](#) discussion overview to find out more about this on-line event, including guest panelists, initial questions, resources, and how to subscribe and participate.

## Manufacturing Returning to the United States

The United States is poised for a manufacturing renaissance within the next five years as the wage gap between China and the U.S. shrinks, according to a recent analysis by The Boston Consulting Group (BCG). "We expect net labor costs for manufacturing in China and the U.S. to converge by around 2015," predicts Harold L. Sirkin of BCG. Manufacturing of household appliances and construction equipment, which are produced in modest volumes and use modest amounts of labor, are most likely to lead the U.S. manufacturing resurgence. In contrast, manufacturers of products such as textiles, apparel, and televisions—labor-intensive, high-volume products—will not be competitive with foreign manufacturers, the analysis finds.

According to Sirkin, "Executives who are planning a new factory in China to make exports for sale to the U.S. should take a hard look at the total costs. They're increasingly likely to get a good wage deal and substantial incentives in the U.S., so the total cost advantage of China may not be large enough to bother—and that's before taking into account the added expense, time, and complexity of logistics."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and others are issuing warnings that the United States needs to focus on upgrading the numbers and skills of the domestic workforce to prevent a shortage of skilled workers from limiting America's economic growth.